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EX-SERVICEMEN BODY SUPPORTS RETENTION OF ISA

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- The Ex-Servicemen Association of Malaysia has expressed support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the Internal Security Act (ISA) needed to be retained.

Its President Senator Datuk Zainol Abidin Johari said today that the need for the ISA was proven as it had ensured the nation's security.

ISA would prevent irresponsible people from trying to fan racial sentiment to undermine unity, he said in a statement here.

Meanwhile, the Center for Peace Initiatives (CENPEACE) said it was time for the ISA to be repealed, and not reformed.

While the proposed amendments to the ISA appeared to make it more palatable, they were actually window dressings which would not alter the obnoxious nature and character of the ISA, CENPEACE Executive Director Fan Yew Teng said in a statement.

He said: "The provision to arrest and detain people without a fair and open trial is against the concept of natural justice and the cardinal principle that an arrested person is presumed innocent until proven guilty." -- Bernama